

WHAT WE CLAIM IS

1. A method of making coffee in a drip-type coffee maker including introducing steam into coffee grounds, and  
5 passing heated water through the coffee grounds to infuse the water.

2. A coffee maker including  
a water reservoir,  
10 a brew basket for receiving coffee grinds,  
an in-line water heater,  
a first water passage between the reservoir and the  
brew basket, the first passage passing through the in-line  
water heater for delivering heated water to the brew  
15 basket, and

a second water passage between the reservoir and the  
brew basket, the second passage passing through the in-line  
water heater and the flow rate in the second passage being  
controlled so that water from the reservoir is converted  
20 into steam for delivery to the brew basket, wherein the  
steam enters the brew basket below the level of any coffee  
grinds in the basket.

3. A coffee maker as claimed in claim 2 wherein steam is released into the brew basket to cause a substantially helical flow path.

5 4. A coffee maker as claimed in claim 2 wherein the brew basket includes a passage for steam communication with the second water passage, the passage having an aperture proximate the base of brew basket.

10 5. A coffee maker as claimed in claim 2 wherein there are two in-line water heaters, one for each water passage.

6. A coffee maker including  
a water reservoir,  
15 a brew basket for receiving coffee grinds,  
an in-line water heater,  
a first water passage between the reservoir and the brew basket, the first passage passing through the in-line water heater for delivering heated water to the brew  
20 basket, and

a second water passage between the reservoir and the brew basket, the second passage passing through the in-line water heater and the flow rate in the second passage being controlled so that water from the reservoir is converted  
25 into steam for delivery to the brew basket, wherein the

steam enters the brew below the level of any coffee grinds in the basket to cause a substantially helical steam flow path therein.